

# It is illegal to burn wood during a Winter Spare the Air Alert



From November 1 through the end of February, the use of fireplaces, pellets stoves, wood stoves, fireplace inserts and outdoor fire pits is illegal when a **Winter Spare the Air Alert** has been called. Each day by 2 p.m., the Air District will issue an air quality forecast for the next day. If air quality is forecast to be unhealthy, a **Winter Spare the Air Alert** will be called, and wood burning will be banned the entire next day, for a full 24 hours. When air quality is forecast to be unhealthy and wood smoke is expected to build up over an extended period of time, a **Winter Spare the Air Alert** may be called up to three days prior to the expected unhealthy air quality event to protect public health.



Call 1-877-4NO-BURN  
(1-877-466-2876)  
Sign up for phone alerts  
by calling 1-800-430-1515



Visit [sparetheair.org](http://sparetheair.org)  
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## Health Effects of Wood Smoke

Like cigarette smoke, wood smoke is linked to illnesses such as asthma, bronchitis and lung disease, and is especially harmful for children and the elderly.

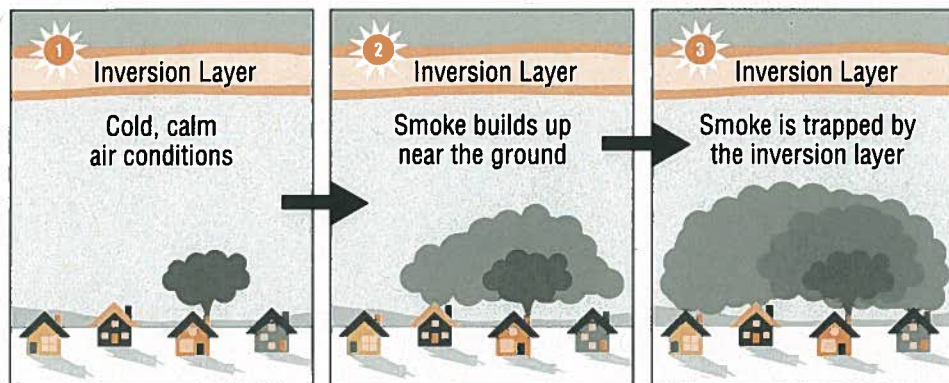
Cold, calm weather conditions can cause wood smoke pollution to become trapped close to the ground and build up to unhealthy levels, making it difficult for people with asthma and other respiratory conditions to breathe.

Wood smoke contains tiny particles that can linger in the air and are so small that our bodies' natural defenses cannot filter them out. Instead, we inhale these tiny particles, or particulate matter, deep into our lungs, where they can enter the bloodstream and cause immediate health impacts.

## TO REGISTER A WOOD BURNING COMPLAINT:

[www.baaqmd.gov/complaints](http://www.baaqmd.gov/complaints)  
1-877-4NO-BURN

[www.sparetheair.org/winter](http://www.sparetheair.org/winter)



*Winter Spare the Air Alerts* are called when an inversion traps smoke near the ground.